

REMARKS

Substantial revisions are made to the specification to correct various grammatical informalities present in the original translation. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner noted again the Applicant's priority claim, but contended that the Patent Office had not yet received the required certified copies of the Japanese application. Those documents were submitted to the Office by first class mail on June 26, 2002. A copy of the document transmittal is attached with this paper. Applicants, though, will accept the Examiner's contention as an indication that, for whatever reason, the priority documents are not yet in the file, and not likely to be located. Applicant's counsel will seek another copy of the priority documents from Japan and submit them in due course.

The drawings were objected to as allegedly not showing the "clamping device" of the claims. This objection is respectfully traversed. The clamping device is illustrated probably most clearly in Figure 4. The device comprises the combination of the cylinder 15 and the lower stop (formerly "positioning") 18. As described in the specification, the device is clamped when the cylinder 15 urges the head 4 downward against the stop 18. In this condition, the head 4 is secured in place - "clamped" - by the pressure from the cylinder 15 acting against the stop 18. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

The specification was objected to with the Examiner's suggestion that the terms "sucked" and "sucking" be changed to "held" or "holding" or similar terms. Applicants have done this in several locations in the specification. "Suck" has been retained in other instances, though, because applicants believe it describes the function of their device with more precision than the terms suggested by the Examiner. An element might be held in any of numerous different ways. In applicant's device, a vacuum is applied to the balls to pick them up and hold them against holes in the bottom of the head. Applicants believe that "suck" and its

variants is now used properly, accurately, and grammatically in every location in the specification at which it appears. Applicants believe that the changes they have made are sufficient to meet the Examiner's legitimate concerns, and the withdrawal of this objection is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 were rejected as unpatentable under section 103(a) over either Sakemi *et al.*, or Nakazato. Every one of Applicants claims includes either a structural limitation requiring "a clamping device for clamping said head," or a method limitation requiring "clamping said head." Applicants believe, particularly in light of the Examiner's objection to the drawings as allegedly not illustrating this feature, that the Examiner may not have understood Applicants' intended meaning in their use of these terms. Applicants contend that no such clamping device is present in either of the references, and therefore request that these rejections be withdrawn. If the Examiner persists with the rejections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to identify where in the references he finds each of the elements of the claims (and particularly the clamping device required by the independent claims). Applicants will then be in a better position to meet the Examiner's rejections, with an amendment to the claims if required. The Examiner's courtesy in this regard is appreciated.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6711 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

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